MEETING MINUTES

Finance Committee March 24, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Time – 8:15 P.M.

Members in attendance: Chairman Joanne F. Marden, Marge Bradshaw, Harold Wright, Tim Felter, Mary O'Donoghue, S. Jon Stumpf, Cindy Milne, Richard T. Howe and Mark Merritt. Also present: Anthony J. Torrisi, Finance Director

Finance Committee members met in the 2^{nd} Floor Conference Room subsequent to meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Committee members discussed then took positions on the following warrant articles:

#3 – Salaries of Elected Officials

Moved by Tim Felter, seconded by Mary O'Donoghue to recommend approval. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#12 – Free Cash

Moved by Dick Howe, seconded by Mary O'Donoghue to recommend approval in the amount of \$580,000. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#17A –F General Housekeeping Articles

Moved by Tim Felter, seconded by Mark Merritt to recommend approval. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#18 – Granting Easements

Moved by Dick Howe, seconded by Tim Felter to recommend approval. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#40 – Open Space Land Acquisition

Moved by Tim Felter, seconded by Marge Bradshaw to recommend approval in the amount of \$1,500,000 contingent upon an override debt exclusion. Passed unanimously. 9-0

#43 – Finance Committee Report

Moved by Cindy Milne, seconded by Tim Felter to recommend approval. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#38 – DPW-Sewer Division-Vehicle

Moved by Dick Howe, seconded by Mark Merritt to recommend approval. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#34 – Shawsheen River Outfall Sewer

Moved by Tim Felter, seconded by Harold Wright to recommend approval. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#53 – Sewer Main Construction & Reconstruction

Moved by Tim Felter, seconded by Marge Bradshaw to recommend approval. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#33 – Bridge Repairs

Moved by Tim Felter, seconded by Harold Wright to recommend approval in the amount of \$600,000. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#50 – Recreation Park Ballfield Lighting Project

Moved by Cindy Milne, seconded by Tim Felter to recommend disapproval. Passed 8-1.

#37 – Fire Rescue & DPW Vehicles

Tim Felter moved to recommend approval. The motion was lost to discussion of whether there was available space in existing stations to house new equipment. The Committee put voting on this article on hold until further information is provided.

#30 – Lovely Field Improvements

Moved by Tim Felter, seconded by Mark Merritt to recommend approval not to exceed \$290,000. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#45 – William M. Wood Memorial

Moved by Harold Wright, seconded by Tim Felter to recommend approval. Passed unanimously 9-0.

#46 – William M. Wood Memorial Park Improvements

Moved by Harold Wright, seconded by Mary O'Donoghue to recommend approval in the amount of \$285,000 to be taken from the C.A. Wood Trust Fund. Passed unanimously 9-0.

Committee members entered into a lengthy discussion of where they stand relative to options for balancing both Town and School budgets. A memo written by Mr. Torrisi and dated March 21, 2008 was distributed. In it, Mr. Torrisi summarized recent changes to budget projections. The changes outlined brought the current deficit based on the Town Manager's Recommended Budget from \$1,800,000 down to \$519,716.

Concern was expressed over the School Committee not being forthcoming with SPED data previously requested by Finance Committee members six weeks prior to this meeting. Mr. Stumpf stated he would follow up on that request. The use of reserve funds was also discussed.

Mr. Torrisi informed committee members that the Board of Selectmen was about to vote on inserting an override article into the warrant and that they requested the Finance Committee's position of the same. The Finance Committee then took the following position:

Moved by Mark Merritt, seconded by Tim Felter to recommend approval of inserting an override article into the warrant. Passed unanimously 9-0.

ADJOURNMENT - 10:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Carolyn Lynch Recording Secretary